compiling a query record comprising desired characteristics of an entity and incremental

preference rankings associated with said desired characteristics by prompting a user to enter

subjective data identifying and describing their wants by a series of online forms displaying a

range of discrete choices for each data element, plus a range of user-selectable preference levels

for each data element;

matching said actual characteristics with said desired characteristics and assigning a positive

integer numerical score for each match that increases in accordance with an increasing

preference ranking, assigning a nominal positive numerical score for each match designated

no-preference, and assigning no score to each non-match; and

totaling said scores to prioritize the closest registration records based on said query record.

12. An automated system for matching a set of desired subjective characteristics to a most

suitable profile of actual objective characteristics from among a database of such objective

profiles, comprising:

a database of profile records each comprising a collection of data elements describing actual

objective characteristics of an entity;

a succession of computer forms navigable by a graphical user interface for prompting a user to

enter a query record describing desired characteristics of an entity, said query record including a

plurality of incremental preference rankings associated with said desired characteristics;

a computer software matching engine for scoring the conformity of the query record of

desired characteristics with said profile records of actual characteristics based on correspondence

of said data records as statistically weighted by said preference rankings, said matching engine

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assigning a positive integer numerical score for each match that increases in accordance with an increasing preference ranking, assigning a nominal positive numerical score for each match designated no-preference, and assigning a zero or negative score to each non-match, said matching engine then totaling said scores;

an output display for displaying a list of profile records that conform to said query record in prioritized order of the matching engine score.

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17. The automated system for matching a set of desired subjective characteristics to a most suitable profile of actual objective characteristics according to claim 16, wherein said succession of computer forms prompts a user to enter subjective data identifying and describing their wants by displaying a range of discrete choices for each data element, plus a range of user-selectable preference levels for each data element.

R E M A R K S

This amendment is being submitted in response to the Office Action dated 14 April 2003, the time to respond being 14 July 2003. Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

The Examiner objected to claim 17 as improperly depending on itself. Claim 17 is herein amended to depend from claim 16.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-5, 7, 12-17 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Sutcliffe et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,052,122). He similarly rejected claims 6, 8-11 and 18-19 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Sutcliffe et al. '122. According to the